

Saltwater Angler Registry Final Rule Fact Sheet

Key Changes from the Proposed Rule

Timing

- Saltwater recreational anglers and spearfishers who are not exempt from the requirement will need to be registered to fish in Federal waters beginning January 1, 2010. This one-year extension was granted at the request of numerous states that sought additional time to consider strategies for gathering and sharing the information required by the national registry.

Exemptions

- Individuals who fish for salmon inland of tidal waters will not be required to register. This makes the treatment of salmon consistent with that of other anadromous species – fish that spend part of their lives in fresh water and part in salt water – like striped bass and steelhead trout.
- Individuals who hold a Highly Migratory Species angling permit, or a state or federal permit to participate in a subsistence fishery program, will be exempt from registering.
- Requirements for state exemptions based on participation in a regional survey of recreational fishing catch and effort were modified as follows:
 - State proposals need not be submitted annually.
 - The qualifying regions were changed to split the western Pacific into two regions, one for Hawaii and one for the western Pacific U.S. territories and Commonwealths.
 - It was clarified that a qualifying survey must include all of the states within a defined region.
 - The provision that a survey must include use of angler registries was modified to allow for use of other approved methods to collect effort data, and to require the use of angler registries only when a telephone survey is a component of a regional survey.

Information gathering

- Date of birth has been added to the information that will be gathered for the registry.
- The following additional information will be included in the Memoranda of Agreement between NMFS and exempted states:
 - Provisions to assure the confidentiality of individuals' personal information.
 - A definition of the tidal waters within which state license or registration holders are identified in the data submitted to NOAA Fisheries.
 - A commitment by states, moving forward, to gather telephone number and date of birth information of license or registration holders. To receive an exemption, states that already have this data will be required to share it with NOAA Fisheries.

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Current status of state saltwater fishing license requirements

Beginning Jan. 1, 2009, NOAA will exempt states from the registration rule that have a system in place – such as licensing or registration – to provide complete information on their saltwater anglers to the national registry. If a state is exempted by NOAA, its anglers who abide by state licensing will not need a federal registration. Following is an overview of the current status of state saltwater licensing requirements.

